IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9 as follows:

B1

FIGURE 3 illustrates a typical diaper assembly in partial section.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 11 as follows:

B2

Other diaper components, such as the leg elastic members **6**, the waist elastic members **8** and the fasteners **20**, may be assembled into the chassis **2** by using means as are well known to those skilled in the art. For example, the fasteners **20** may be connected to the outer cover **17** with an adhesive. The adhesive may be applied as a uniform continuous layer of adhesive, a patterned layer of adhesive, a sprayed pattern of adhesive, or any of separate lines, swirls or dots of adhesive. Alternatively, the fasteners **20** may be attached to the outer cover **17** by ~~ultra sonic~~ ultrasonic bonding, thermal bonding, or the like.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 28 as follows:

B3

Suitable fibers for forming the neckable material include natural and synthetic fibers as well as bicomponent, multi-component, and shaped polymer fibers. Many polyolefins are available for fiber production according to the present invention, for example, fiber forming polypropylenes include Exxon Chemical Company's ~~Esbodyne®~~ ESBODYNE PD 3445 polypropylene and Himont Chemical Company's PF-304. Polyethylenes such as Dow Chemical's ~~ASPUN®~~ ASPUN 6811A linear

low density polyethylene, 2553 LLDPE and 25355 and 12350 high density polyethylene are also suitable polymers. The nonwoven web layer may be bonded to impart a discrete bond pattern with a prescribed bond surface area. If too much bond area is present on the neckable material, the material will break before it necks. If there is not enough bond area, then the neckable material will pull apart. Typically, the percent bonding area useful in the present invention ranges from around 5 percent to around 40 percent of the area of the neckable material.

B3

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 17 as follows:

The stretchable chassis liner **10** may suitably be composed of a neck-stretched, spunbond web with ~~KRATON®~~ KRATON G strands, such as 0.4 osy (60% neck-stretched) polypropylene spunbond laminated to 0.4 osy strands of ~~KRATON®~~ KRATON MM G2760 with 12 strands per inch, which is stretched perpendicular to the necking direction, then allowed to retract. Alternately, the stretchable chassis liner **10** may include a ~~KRATON®~~ KRATON Film.

B4

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 22 as follows:

The stretchable chassis liner **10** may be composed of a substantially hydrophobic material, and the hydrophobic material can, optionally, be treated with a surfactant or otherwise processed to impart a desired level of wettability and hydrophilicity. For example, the elastic material can be surface treated with about 0.45 weight percent of a surfactant mixture including ~~AHCOVEL®~~ AHCOVEL N-62 from Hodgson Textile

B5

Chemicals of Mount Holly, North Carolina, U.S.A. and ~~GLUCOPON®~~ GLUCOPON 220UP from Henkel Corporation of Ambler, Pennsylvania, in an active ratio of 3:1. The surfactant can be applied by any conventional means, such as spraying, printing, brush coating or the like. The surfactant can be applied to the entire stretchable chassis liner **10** or can be selectively applied to particular sections of the stretchable chassis liner **10**, such as the medial section along the longitudinal centerline.

B5

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 27 as follows:

One example of an elastic outer cover **17** material with elastic properties is a 0.3 osy polypropylene spunbond that is necked 60% in the transverse direction (i.e., cross-machine direction) and creped 60% in the longitudinal direction, laminated with 3 grams per square meter (gsm) Findley 2525A styrene-isoprene-styrene based adhesive to 8 gsm ~~PEBAX®~~ PEBAX 2533 film with 20% TiO2 concentrate. In such an elastic embodiment, the outer cover **17** may suitably be stretched, transversely and/or longitudinally, by at least 25% (to at least 125% of an initial (unstretched) width and/or length of the outer cover **17**). More suitably, the outer cover 17 may be stretched, transversely and/or longitudinally, by at least 50% (to at least 150% of an initial (unstretched) width and/or length of the outer cover **17**). Even more suitably, the outer cover 17 may be stretched, transversely and/or longitudinally, by at least 100% (to at least 200% of the unstretched width or length of the outer cover **17**). Most more suitably, the outer cover 17 may be stretched, transversely and/or longitudinally, by at least 150% (to at least 250% of the unstretched width or length of the outer cover **17**). Tension in the outer cover 17

B6

at 50% extension is suitably between 50 and 1000 grams, more suitably between 100 and 600 grams, as measured on a 3 inch wide piece of the outer cover material. B6

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 23 as follows:

Suitable stretchable polymers for making the film include stretchable olefin polymers, such as an olefinic copolymer of polyethylene. More specifically, other stretchable polymers include diblock, triblock, tetrablock or other multi-block elastomeric copolymers such as olefinic copolymers, including styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene, styrene-ethylene/ butylene-styrene, or styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene, which may be obtained from the Shell Chemical Company, under the trademark ~~KRATON®~~ KRATON elastomeric resin; B7 polyurethanes, including those available from E. I. du Pont de Nemours Co., under the trademark ~~LYCRA®~~ LYCRA polyurethane; polyamides, including polyether block amides available from Ato Chemical Company, under the trademark ~~PEBAX®~~ PEBAX polyether block amide; polyesters, such as those available from E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Co., under the trademark ~~HYTREL®~~ HYTREL polyester; and single-site or metallocene-catalyzed polyolefins having density less than about 0.91 grams/cc, available from Dow Chemical Co. under the trademark ~~AFFINITY®~~ AFFINITY.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 27 as follows:

Alternative polymers for the film layer include those referred to as single site catalyzed polymers such as "metallocene" polymers produced according to a metallocene process and which have limited elastic properties. For B8

example, a common metallocene is ferrocene, a complex of a metal between two cyclopentadienyl (Cp) ligands. Such metallocene polymers are available from Exxon Chemical Company of Baytown, Texas under the trademark ~~EXXPOL®~~ EXXPOL for polypropylene based polymers and ~~EXACT®~~ EXACT for polyethylene based polymers and from Dow Chemical Company of Midland, Michigan under the name ~~ENGAGE®~~ ENGAGE. Preferably, the B8 metallocene polymers are selected from copolymers of ethylene and 1-butane, copolymers of ethylene and 1-hexene, copolymers of ethylene and 1-octene, or a combination thereof. Suitable non-elastic neckable materials for the outer cover **17** include nonwoven webs, woven materials, knitted materials, or a combination thereof, such as those described in the above-mentioned U.S. Patent No. 4,965,122.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 10 as follows:

Nonwoven fabrics or webs have been formed from many processes, for example, bonded carded web processes, meltblowing processes and spunbonding processes. The non-elastic neckable material is preferably formed from at least one member selected from fibers and filaments of B9 inelastic polymers. Such polymers include polyesters, for example, polyethylene terephthalate, polyolefins, for example, polyethylene and polypropylene, polyamides, for example, nylon 6 and nylon 66. These fibers or filaments are used alone or in a mixture of two or more thereof. Suitable fibers for forming the neckable material include natural fibers, synthetic fibers, bicomponent fibers, multi-component fibers, shaped polymer fibers, or a combination thereof. Many polyolefins are available for fiber production according to the present

invention, for example, fiber forming polypropylenes include Exxon Chemical Company's ~~Esbodyne®~~ ESBODYNE PD 3445 polypropylene and Himont Chemical Company's PF-304. Polyethylenes such as Dow Chemical's ~~ASPUN®~~ ASPUN 6811A linear low density polyethylene, 2553 LLDPE and 25355 and 12350 high density polyethylene are also suitable polymers.

B9 cont

The nonwoven web layer may be bonded to impart a discrete bond pattern with a prescribed bond surface area. If too much bond area is present on the neckable material, it will break before it necks. If there is not enough bond area, then the neckable material will pull apart. Typically, the percent bonding area useful in the present invention ranges from around 5 percent to around 40 percent of the area of the neckable material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 2 as follows:

B10

The above advantages of the diaper **1** configuration of the present invention may be illustrated by comparing the diaper ~~1~~ **100** configuration of a conventional diaper depicted in Figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 is a top cut-away view of one embodiment of a typical diaper assembly and Figure 4 a cross-section view of one embodiment of a typical diaper ~~1~~ **100** assembly. The diaper ~~1~~ **100** generally defines a front waist region **51** and a back waist region **50** which together define a three-dimensional diaper ~~1~~ **100** configuration having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings (not shown). The diaper ~~1~~ **100** components such as the leg elastic members **6** may be interposed between the outer cover **17** and the bodyside liner **5**. The fasteners **20** are assembled and attached to extend from the side panels **42** that are attached to the laterally opposed side edges in the back waist region **50** of the diaper ~~1~~ **100**. The fasteners **20** may be

affixed to the inner surface **11** of the chassis **2**, the inner surface **37** of the outer cover **17**, or the outer surface **33** of the chassis **2**. Other components such as the waist elastic members **8** may be affixed to the inner surface **32** of the bodyside liner **5**. The ventilation layer **65** is located between the bodyside liner **5** and the outer cover **17** to insulate the outer cover **17** from the absorbent core **3** and to reduce the dampness of the outer surface **33** of the outer cover **17**. The various layers and components of the diaper ~~1~~ **100** are integrally assembled employing various types of suitable attachment means described above that are well know to those skilled in the art such as with adhesives, sonic bonding, thermal bonding or a combination thereof.

B10 CONT

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 29, ~~line 25~~ as follows:

The configuration of the diaper ~~1~~ **100** in Figures 3 and 4 is more costly and complicated to produce. The diaper ~~1~~ **100** configuration in Figures 3 and 4 may utilize a multitude of stretchable elastomeric components in its construction, such as the bodyside liner **5**, the absorbent core **3**, the surge management layer **7** and the outer cover **17** which may be more difficult to process during manufacturing. Typically the manufacturing equipment of a conventional stretchable diaper ~~1~~ **100** assembly requires that one or more of its stretchable layers are pre-stretched before securing another stretchable layer to the first stretchable layer(s).

B11

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 3 as follows:

For example, the diaper ~~1~~ 100 in Figures 3 and 4 include an absorbent core 3 that is sandwiched between a stretchable bodyside liner 5 and a stretchable outer cover 17. The conventional diaper ~~1~~ 100 may require that the outer cover 17 be pre-stretched before the absorbent core 3 is affixed to the outer cover 17. Similarly the bodyside liner 5 may also have to be pre-stretched before it is affixed to the outer cover 17 sandwiching the absorbent core 3 therebetween. Further, the more stretchable components utilized in the diaper ~~1~~ 100 construction, the more costly it is to manufacture the diaper ~~1~~ 100.

B12

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 3 as follows:

The absorbent body 4 of the diaper 1 and the stretchable chassis 2 of the diaper 1 are integrally assembled together employing various types of suitable attachment means as are well known to those skilled in the art. For example, the absorbent body 4 may be connected to the chassis 2 with an adhesive 13. The adhesive 13 may be applied as a uniform continuous layer of adhesive, a patterned layer of adhesive, a sprayed pattern of adhesive, or any of separate lines, swirls or dots of adhesive. Alternatively, the absorbent body 4 may be attached to the chassis 2 using ultra sonic bonding, thermal bonding, or the like. In another alternative, the absorbent body 4 may be attached to the chassis 2 by using conventional fasteners such as buttons, hook and loop type fasteners, adhesive tape fasteners, and the like.

B13

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 23 as follows:

3. Test facility having a temperature of 23 [[+]] ± 1°C, and a relative humidity of 50 [[+]] ± 2 percent.

B4

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

~~The present invention provides a~~ A disposable absorbent article ~~comprising~~ has a stretchable multilayer chassis that defines an inner surface and an outer surface~~,~~. ~~an~~ An absorbent body ~~having~~ of the article has an inner surface and an outer surface wherein the stretchable multilayer chassis is stretchable in at least the cross-machine direction~~,~~. ~~and the~~ The absorbent body is affixed to the inner surface of the multilayer stretchable chassis such that in use, the inner surface of the absorbent body lies against the wearer and the stretchable multilayer chassis stretches about the wearer independently in at least the cross-machine direction.

B15